

"Their mouths will hang open a minute or two, and they'll all cry, 'boo-hoo.'"

□ 0915

"That's a noise," grinned the Grinch, "that I simply must hear."

So he paused. And the Grinch put his hand to his ear.

And he did hear a sound rising over the snow. It started to low. Then it started to grow.

He stared down aghast. The Grinch popped his eyes.

Then he shook. What he saw was a shocking surprise.

Every American, the tall and the small, loudly demanding tax cuts for all.

We want our deductions and a better deal, not tax cuts for corporations while you cut Meals on Wheels.

And the Grinch, with his small hands ice-cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling:

"How could it be so?"

"Am I a fool?"

"Are my policies all wrong?"

"Without those deductions, can the Nation be strong?"

And he puzzled 3 hours until his puzzler was sore.

Then the Grinch thought of something he had not tweeted before:

"Maybe tax cuts should help more than just corporations.

"Maybe this Christmas I can help the whole Nation.

"America's middle class is what made it thrive.

"They need these deductions if they're to survive."

We all know how the real story ends.

The Grinch finds his heart and he makes amends.

Now we know this tax bill won't end with such glee, because the President and corporate lobbyists control the GOP.

This Christmas, families will get just coal in their stocking.

Thanks to President Trump, the final result will be shocking.

TAX REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, over the past 31 years, our Tax Code has become broken. As our Tax Code is currently written, I have been told by many that it fails to support families across the country with the resources they need in order to properly plan for their futures. Our Tax Code has left those behind who are struggling to make ends meet, and that is unacceptable.

Today is a historic day because that is all about to change. We have heard you. Today we will vote on comprehensive tax reform.

During consideration of H.R. 1, Andrew from Indianapolis contacted me, asking that we craft a tax plan that helps the middle class. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act bill does just that. Thanks to the reduced personal tax rates this bill provides, the average family of four, earning \$73,000, will pay \$2,000 less in Federal taxes.

We heard you, Andrew.

A single mother earning \$40,000 will see \$1,300 more in her paycheck. Those

savings represent the ability for parents to save for opportunities, including future education costs for their kids, retirement savings; or for unexpected times when an emergency fund is needed to cover unplanned costs.

I heard loud and clear from a lot of people in the Fifth District—students and parents—about the importance of protecting graduate student tuition exemptions. To ensure we continue to support hardworking students pursuing their career goals, this bill continues those exemptions.

We heard you.

Deborah from Anderson called my office asking that we preserve the mortgage interest deduction. This bill does that. It makes no changes to deductions for current mortgages and it keeps the deduction in place for new mortgages of up to \$750,000.

I heard you, Deborah.

I was also contacted by a young married couple from Zionsville, in my district, who said, thanks to this bill, they have done the calculations and they think they are going to receive a \$5,000 tax cut. They will use that money to boost their savings so that they can buy their first home sooner than they expected.

I heard you.

Providing our friends, neighbors, colleagues, and loved ones the freedom to pursue their dreams—like buying a first home or saving for college—is what allows our society to improve and better itself.

I encourage my colleagues to also listen to the American people to show that we have heard them, and to support this bill. I believe it will help provide security for families across the Nation and it will help turn their dreams into their new reality.

OPPOSING THE GOP TAX SCAM CONFERENCE REPORT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this tax scam bill. Not only will it harm working families across the Nation, but it will visit another hurricane on Puerto Rico: an economic hurricane.

Today, Puerto Rico is in the grip of a humanitarian crisis. More than 235,000 of its people have already fled the island for the mainland.

After Maria, many of my colleagues—from Speaker RYAN to Leader MCCARTHY—went to Puerto Rico and promised they would assist the island and help them recover. Instead, what they are doing is finding a way to further drive Puerto Rico's economy into the ground.

Even though it is part of the United States—remember, since 1898, when military forces invaded Puerto Rico—this bill treats Puerto Rico as a foreign jurisdiction, levying new taxes on corporations operating there, creating in-

centives for them to leave the island and take jobs with them.

Let's be clear. Puerto Ricans are American citizens. They fight in our wars, many of them laying down their lives for our freedoms, yet this bill continues treating Puerto Rico differently than the rest of the United States.

For decades, decisions made right here in this body hollowed out, weakened, and undermined Puerto Rico's economy. This tax bill continues that awful tradition, undercutting Puerto Rico's economy once more.

All told, these tax provisions will cost Puerto Rico more than 200,000 jobs, at exactly the time when the island needs all the help it can get.

While this tax scam would hurt Puerto Rico, it also does nothing to help. While they had talked of it, there is nothing to expand the child tax credit for Puerto Rico. They eliminated the meager extensions of section 199 and rum cover-over provisions contained in the House version.

The Speaker of the House and the Republican leader went to Puerto Rico. They looked the people of Puerto Rico in the eye and made promises to help them.

That is how you help Puerto Rico?

What we are seeing is that their tax bill would serve simply to crush Puerto Rico's economy.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is morally bankrupt. It harms American citizens everywhere. It kicks Puerto Rico when it is down. It must be rejected. Vote "no."

CELEBRATING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF JACKSON HEALTH SYSTEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Jackson Health System.

Jackson Memorial Hospital first opened its doors in south Florida a century ago as a 13-bed community hospital. In the years since, Jackson has grown to become one of the Nation's largest and most renowned public hospital systems.

But, throughout the many periods of growth and expansion, Jackson has remained true to its core mission: to build and improve the health of our community by providing the best possible care for Miami's residents.

Mr. Speaker, by caring for those most in need, Jackson Health System has created a solid foundation that has empowered our families to thrive.

Congratulations to their leader, Carlos Migoya, and all of the staff of Jackson Health System on a century of excellence and care to our community. I thank them for continuing to serve as stewards of Jackson's legacy and for continuing to use healthcare to improve people's lives and to help shape their bright futures.

RECOGNIZING DIANE WHITAKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Diane L. Whitaker as she retires from the Clinton County Library System this year after serving 31 years and 31 days as executive director of the Ross Library in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania.

In the library's 107 years of existence, Ms. Whitaker is just the seventh director, but she is the longest serving in its history.

The Ross Library Board of Trustees recently hosted a celebration for Ms. Whitaker. They also revealed the newly named "Diane L. Whitaker Genealogy Collection" on a plaque in her honor.

Over the years, Ms. Whitaker has overseen numerous projects and has also authored grant applications that have helped local libraries with much-needed funding.

Ms. Whitaker was raised in Clearfield County and holds a bachelor's degree in secondary education from Lock Haven University. She earned a master's degree in library science from Clarion University.

She has been a career librarian for more than four decades, working as a school librarian, bookmobile librarian, children's coordinator, branch librarian, and administrator.

Ms. Whitaker and her husband, Lester, live in Beech Creek. They have three daughters and six grandchildren, all of whom reside in Clinton and Centre Counties.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. Whitaker for all her contributions to Ross Library and the entire Clinton County Library System. The community is a better place thanks to her efforts. She plans to visit State and national parks in her retirement, which I think is an outstanding plan.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL COLBERT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, for nearly 20 years, Michael Colbert has given his leadership to Oil Creek Township as supervisor chairman. Last week, he oversaw his final meeting as supervisor, and he will retire at the end of the year.

Mr. Colbert first served as a supervisor in 1993 to fill a vacancy, but he stepped down the next year. He would run again in 1999, win the seat, and officially be sworn in in January 2000.

Over nearly 20 years at the helm, Mr. Colbert oversaw numerous projects, but he told the Titusville Herald that his proudest achievement was helping pave the way for Walmart to open a store in the township.

In his well-deserved retirement, Mr. Colbert said he plans to vacation in Florida for a few weeks.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Colbert for his dedication and leadership to Oil Creek Township as supervisor chairman. He has given nearly 20 years of

his time and energy to his neighbors and his community. For that, we are grateful.

I wish him the best in retirement.

RECOGNIZING PEARL S. BUCK INTERNATIONAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important work that Pearl S. Buck International is doing in our community in Bucks County.

Pearl S. Buck was the first woman to receive both the Pulitzer and Nobel Prize for literature. Pearl Buck spent decades of her life in China, immersing herself in its culture and history, with her remaining time living in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

The foundation continues her work, providing opportunities to explore and appreciate other cultures and building better lives for children around the globe. Their work on projects—like the Backyard Gardening Project in the Philippines, Life Skills Education for Children Living in Vietnamese Orphanages, and Thailand Clean Drinking Water and Sanitation Project—has increased humanitarian aid for people across the world.

The organization's School Outreach Program and the High School Leadership Program, which equips students committed to making lifelong contributions within the community with effective leadership skills, have made positive and long-lasting impacts in our district. I am thankful for, and stand in full support of, the work that Pearl S. Buck International does in our community and around the globe.

RECOGNIZING BENJAMIN RUSH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, this December, over 50 students at Benjamin Rush Elementary School in Bucks County were recognized for their completion of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program. This training—more commonly known as D.A.R.E.—teaches young students basic skills for responsible decisionmaking.

I thank the officers of the Bensalem Township Police Department for their work with Benjamin Rush Elementary School and for their commitment to educating young citizens in our district.

□ 0930

In the face of a growing opioid crisis, it is vital that students learn about the consequences of drug abuse.

Mr. Speaker, as an EMT and vice chair of the Bipartisan Heroin Task Force, I applaud the efforts of educational programs like these and all those who seek to learn from them. Educating the young people in our communities about the potential dangers of drug abuse is absolutely crucial, and it is my hope that they will use the

tools they have learned to lead safer and healthier lives and to become leaders in the lower Bucks County community.

CREATION OF A NEW GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MONUMENT

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, this December, ground was broken at the Washington Crossing National Cemetery for the creation of a new Gold Star Families Memorial Monument. These monuments are erected across this country to recognize U.S. military members who have laid down their lives and their family members who have suffered alongside of them.

Among those present for the groundbreaking was Hershel "Woody" Williams. Mr. Williams, a former marine, is the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient for honorable service during the Battle of Iwo Jima. It was with the help of his foundation that this monument was made possible.

These memorials include stories about homeland, family, patriot, and sacrifice. In the center is a cutout that represents the loved one who has sacrificed their life in defense of our great country.

Mr. Speaker, we can never forget those who have paid the ultimate price to secure our freedoms, nor can we forget the families who supported them in their noble endeavors. We are so proud to have a Gold Star Families Memorial Monument in our district.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 31 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

In the waning days of the first session of the 115th Congress, help the Members of the House, and those of the Senate, to act wisely and carefully in the important work they do.

And as our Nation passes through this holy season for millions of Americans, may there be good will in our communities and peace and reconciliation where those virtues are so sorely needed.

May all that is done within the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the